WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pensions cases of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu

*63. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pensions cases of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu that are pending at present with the Ministry for grant of pensions;

(b) since when these cases have been pending; and

(c) by when these are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No case pertaining to applications submitted within the prescribed time limit is pending for dsposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arse.

Plan for revamping Jute Industry

*64. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very little progress has been made under the plan for revamping the jute industry; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Nexus between Afghan rebels and Punjab terrorists

*65. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the media reports about the existence of a nexus between the Afghan rebels and the terrorists in Punjab are correct; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to check its impact on the smuggling of arms to India?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Information available with the Government indicates that there has been contact between Sikh extremists and Afghan rebels in the UK and the USA. There are also indications of contact between the two groups in the matter of purchase of arms. The reports in a section of the media about a letter from a prominent Mujahideen leader on this subject have, however, not been substantiated.

(b) Government is keeping a strict vigil on the bordr to check smuggling of arms and ammunitions by terrorists.

Refugees from other countries in India

*66. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of refugees from other countries in India as on date alongwith the names of such countries;

(b) what are the details of steps taken by Government to repatriate them to their respective countries; and

(c) what amount has been spent on these refugees till March 31, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The number of refugees from other countries in India, alongwith the names of such countries is given below:

	No. of refugees from:		
Sri Lanka (As on 1-4-89)	Tibet	Bangladesh (As on 9-4-89)	Burma (As on 12-4-89)
88,887	80,000 (approx)	44,014	121